The covenant drama

Paul's historic role

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
Paul's role in the covenant drama
Lesson for November 16, 1980
Scripture References: Acts 13:13-52; Corinthians 3:1-6
Focal Passages: Acts 13:44-52; II Corinthians 3:4-6
Introduction

The new covenant in Christ had broader implications than the old covenant. Whereas the old was related to the people of Israel, the new was aimed at all persons, regardless of class or color.

God's choice of the person

Bible and Daily Living

to deliver the good news of Christ to all people was the Apostle Paul. He became the frontrunner for sharing the Gospel of acceptance to all who believe.

A Gospel for Jews [Acts 13:13-41]

Paul often went to the local synagogues to preach to those who had converted to Judaism. In Acts 13 we see Paul vividly recalling the events of Israel's history. This he did because his hearers would readily listen to that which was familiar to them.

Once Paul laid the foundation and joined the respect of his hearers, he shared with them the message of Christ. The picture he declared presented Jesus as the long-awaited and long-promised Messiah. He told them how Jesus had been condemned and put to death, and how he had risen from the dead in a resurrected state.

Paul's approach to preaching is instructive, I think. He took his congregation very seriously and concentrated on who they were. We would do well, preachers and laypersons alike, to always speak to where people are in their pilgrimage, and to do more than simply offer good advice. We offer "good news" to those who are struggling to find meaning to life.

Paul closed his appeal to his listeners by offering them an opportunity to respond to the invitation of forgiveness through faith. H did not appeal to them to adhere to the law, but to enter a new covenant relationship in Christ.

A gospel for Gentiles [Acts 13:42-52]

The response to Paul's preaching was a mixture of enthusiasm and rejection. Those who responded enthusiastically were anxious for the next sabbath so they could here more, but some of the Jews were offended by what Paul said and sought to destroy his credibility.

Those who generate a great deal of excitement are often looked upon with disdain. Some Christians would rather keep a low profile than to open themselves up for broader possibilities.

It is quite natural that the Jews felt threatened by Paul and his message of salvation in Christ. They responded by attacking Paul and his message, forcing Paul to leave town. While Paul was seeking to acknowledge the Jews as the prime recipients for the Gospel message, they rejected him and his message.

Paul's next step was to carry the Gospel to the Gentiles. This was a radical departure from the norm of Jewish tradition. That Christ came to declare himself to all persons is, indeed, good news! A religion that focuses upon one type of person is bound to fail. A church that acts as an introvert is doomed to death.

The church, like the gospel message, is called to minister to all persons, regardless of who they are. And the church which refuses to bear fruits which are relevant to people, will soon discover that many people will see no relevance in needing the church.

The gospel of a new covenant [II Cor. 3:1-6]

The Jews and Gentiles were not always divided. Many came together to become members of the same church, united together into a binding covenant relationship.

Having good reference is important in our society for securing new jobs. This is not a new societal custom, but was very common in the ancient world. Some churches have the practice of sending "letters of good standing" when a member transfers to another church.

Paul indicates that he does not need a letter of commendation, but that his "letter of reference" comes from the Christian people at Corinth. Paul even refers to the Corinthian Christians as "letters of Christ." This was, indeed, a very high tribute, as well as a demanding one.

It is a sobering idea to think that we as Christians are supposed to be letters for Christ. In other words, for better or for worse we are advertisements for Christ and his church.

Dr. Trimyer is Chapain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

The three tests

By REV. DAN MENSER
Hollywood & Central Baptist Churches

In Luke's Gospel 9:23 we find these instructions in following Jesus. "He said to them all, if any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

In this, one of Jesus' most penetrating sayings, we find His standard of discipleship. Jesus is here giving us three tests.

FIRST of all, SELF-DENIAL. Jesus was interested in the SELF-DISCIPLINES that spring from an inner compulsion of the spirit. [illegible] has been the familiar climate in which the great souls of history have customarily lived. Only through the habit of humble, daily, toiling attention are worthwhile accomplishments ever achieved. There can be no self-development apart from self-denial; it is the law of growth.

SECOND, SELF-EXPENDITURE. "Let him....take up his cross daily," said the Lord; let him give himself to come high endeavor that is larger and finer than he is. Voluntary assumption of some of the burdens of this suffering world is the touch-stone of a person's religious sincerity. A thru Christian always cares, cares enough to make his faith result in facts.

THIRD, SELF-DEDICATION. Jesus ended His description of Christian character by saying, "FOLLOW ME." This is, "Dedicate your life to the eternal principles for which I have lived!" The more evil the day, the more important it is to incarnate those values which alone will redeem the day. The sins of our generations are too deep to be changed by anything less than complete self-bestowal. Dedicate yourself, therefore, to the unremitting service of Christ, and you will discover a release of spirit and a happiness of mind that had not dreamed possible.

Let us pray together, this prayer: O God, enable me to keep myself dedicated to thee. Grant me the power to deny myself that I may develop myself for thee, and expend myself daily in thy service. Amen.

Your church, when it is or was looking for someone to fill a position in the church as an officer, teacher, or what ever position it may be, what answer did you give to the Lord, when you were asked to serve the church? I pray that you prayed about the answer before you gave the answer to the person or committee. Did the Holy Spirit have a part in the decision that was made? I pray, that God, through the Holy Spirit has a part in all your decisions in your life. May God, have a part in your life, as you can grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, by truly making HIM, LORD of your life.

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McClary completes USCG law patrol

Coast Guard Seaman Paul A. McClary, son of Ann C. and James F. McClary Jr. of Route 4, Box 35A, Appomattox, Va., recently returned from a Law Enforcement Patrol off the East Coast.

He is a crewmember aboard the Coast Guard cutter Reliance, homeported in Yorktown, Va.

During the patrol the Reliance cruised more than 2,300 miles and boarded 24 vessels from three different countries to enforce international treaties and U.S. laws.

The Reliance is a 210-foot long, medium endurance cutter with a crew of 66. Designed for search and rescue and law enforcement duties, it can accomodate a light helicopter. The Reliance is the Coast Guard's only designated reserve training cutter.

McClary joined the Coast Guard in April 1979. His wife, Doris, is the daughter of Thelma Hughes of Route 1, Box 86, Appomattox.

CLASSIFIED ADS GET RESULTS

Jordan news

"Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." St. Matthew 7:1-2

On the fourth Sunday night in this month, the annual Harvest Festival will be held at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited.

On Thanksgiving night at 8:00 p.m. there will be service here. Rev. William Venable will be preaching for this service.

The newly organized Junior Choir will be having "100 Men in Color" here on the fifth Sunday night in November. Their guest will be the Holiness Singers. This program will be at 7:30 p.m.

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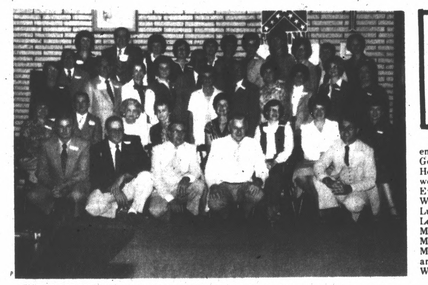

THE CLASS OF 1955 recently held its 25th reunion. Shown above are: front row, l. to r., Bill Woody, Pete McFadden, Jimmy Rogers, Claude Moore, Robert Leffers. Second row, l. to r., Delores Williams Dojaqvez, John Hudson, teacher, Frances Cheatham, teacher, Mary Taylor, teacher, Ruth Slagle Willoughby, Carolyn Johnson Grizzard, Carolyn Davis Smith, Mickey Guill Porter; Third row, l. to r., Ethel Chernault McMinn, Charles Trent, Teddy Mitchell, Roberta Harvey Mitchell, Jo Ann Harris Shorter, Ralph Harris, Shirley Reynolds Smith, Curtis Wooten, Marie Routon Wooten, Shirley Grubbs Moore, Betty Goad Bywater, Eloise Couch Mitchell, Fourth row, l. to r., Jane Holt Woodson, Jerry George, Dorothy Paulette Hamlette, Mary Childress Harris, Violet Martin Barnes, Shirley Morris Blanks, Ivey Ferguson Carter, Betty Robinson Phelps,, Alice Gunter Dyiengel, Dale Carter Jones, Nancy Doss Hall. (photo by Joe Vaughan).

THE VERA CHURCH of God honored Brother Russel Bryant on his 79th birthday with a buffet luncheon served in the Fellowship Hall after morning worship on Nov. 2. Brother Bryant, a charter member of the church is loved by everyone. The church membership wished him many more happy birthdays.

Children enjoy Halloween cookout

The children of Primary I Sunday School of Liberty Baptist Church enjoyed a Halloween Cookout at Tanglewood Farm home of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. McCormick, Spout Spring on Wednesday night, October 29, 5-7p.m.

They all had much fun roasting their hot dogs outside over an open fire and eating them with chili, mustard, rolls, baked beans, potato chips, sweet potatoes, macaroni and cheese, cookies and lemonade.

After the meal a time of games, songs and a Halloween story told by Maurine Harrison was enjoyed. Each little guest received a funny face surprise as they left for home.

Those attending were: Martha Nolen, Amy Slade, Jennifer White, Roxanne Williams, Becca Carter, Rhonda Kay Moore, Abby Tolly, Jennifer Tweedy, Shannon Williams, Steve Stratton, Jason Fox, Andy Tolly, Brandon Thompson.

Rev. and Mrs. Rex Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Jamerson, Mrs. Mildred Hubbard, Mrs. Frances Conner, Mrs. Betty Torrence, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Johnson, Mrs. Philip Harrison and Russell Lea Harrison and Mr. and Mrs. McCormick.

Homemakers plan fashion show

Everyone is invited! There is no charge! Refreshments will be served! Sponsored by Appomattox County Extension Homemakers.

On Friday, Nov. 14, 8:00 p.m., Sara Jean Pander, Consumer Relations Specialist, from Atlanta, Ga. will be at the Appomattox County High School Cafeteria to present a most unusual, colorful fashion show from West Point Pepperell.

The show will include everything from swim wear to evening wear. Fabrics that will be featured are West Point Pepperell's denims, chambrays, twills, knits, Martex & Lady Pepperell sheets, pillowcases, towels and blankets.

"Color It You" is not "For Ladies Only" it will be fun for everyone. Come out and enjoy a stimulating and fun filled fashion show with a focus on COLOR.

Birth announced

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick L. Thomas are proud to announce the birth of a daughter, Brandy Lee, born on November 6. She weighed 8 lbs. 3 ozs. and was 21 inches long. She has a very proud big brother, Christ, age 3.

Maternal grandmother is Mrs. Reba H. Bruce of Appomattox.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Lordon D. Thomas of Appomattox.

Times-Virginian
Society News
Call 352-8215

Those visiting Mrs. Lorene Wooten in Lynchburg General Marshall Lodge Hospital over the weekend were: Jimmy Bryant of Evington, Mrs. Virginia Wright of Gladstone, Mrs. Lucy Pack and Mrs. Amma Lee Godsey of Appomattox; Mrs. Lawrence Hamlet, Mrs. Allen Hamlet, Mrs. Mary Woody of Evergreen and the Rev. Wayne Woodard of Buckingham.

* * *

The Young Hearts Club will meet Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 10:30 a.m. at the Memorial United Methodist Church on Court Street. A large crowd is expected. Bring sandwiches, drinks and dessert will be furnished by the club.

Country club plans party

Falling River Country Club will have a cocktail party, barbecue and dance on Saturday, Nov. 15 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Music for the dance will be furnished by a disc jokey from WLVA and will include bluegrass, country, music from the fifties, as well as popular music. Cost for the event will be $15.00 per couple.

Make your reservations by calling 352 7086 before 7 p.m. Nov. 13 or signing up a the club house. Members may invite guests.

Homemakers plan meeting

The Country Lane Homemakers will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the home of Francis Wilson.

The demonstration will be given by Phyllis Wilson on interior decorating. Welcome guests and new members.

You may contact Penny Mongold 352-7022, for further information.

Choir sponsors program

The Mt. Airy Church senior choir is sponsoring "Ladies in Color" this Saturday evening at 7 p.m.

Guest speaker for the occasion will be Mrs. Hollis, Mrs. Florence Trent and daughter, Lina, entertained Rodney Thompson with a surprise 7th birthday party at his home Friday evening, Nov. 7.

Also attending were his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Thompson, sister, Angie, Jean Nash, Flossie Moore, and G. C. and Eloise Martin.

Other birthday celebrations included a party Saturday, Nov. 1 at A. J. Skateworld.

* * *

Mrs. Jessie Anderson and son Richard of Bradenton, Florida visited in the home of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Ben Cole last week. Mrs. Cole continues sick at her home here.

Birth announced

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Lea Harrison of Rt. 4, Appomattox, Va. proudly announce the birth of their second child, a son, Zachary Scott.

Born Wednesday, Nov. 5, 1980 at 5:13 a.m. in the Virginia Baptist Hospital. He weighed 6 lbs. 15 ozs. Russell Lea Harrison, age 3½, is Zachary's older brother.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Russell Belden McCormick of Spout Spring, Va.

Paternal grandmother is Mrs. John Lea Harrison of Rt. 4, Appomattox, Va.

UDC plans meeting

The Appomattox Chapter of the United Daughters of Confederacy will meet at Maude's Restaurant on Thursday, Nov. 20 at 12:30 p.m.

All members are urged to attend.

BUY - SELL - OR TRADE CLASSIFIED ADS GET RESULTS

Finalist in Teen Age Pageant

Miss Judith Martin, age 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Martin has been selected to be a finalist in the 10th Annual Miss Virginia National Teen ager Pageant to be held in Norfolk at the Lake Wright Quality Inn on April 10, 11, and 12, 1981.

Kim Lough of Dayton is the reigning Miss Virginia National Teen ager and will crown the new queen. There will be contestants from all over Virginia competing for $500 CASH, a $4,000.00 Scholarship to Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla., a tuition scholarship to the Barbizon School, and an all expense paid trip including round trip air fare to the Miss National Teen ager Pageant.

The Miss National Teen ager Pageant awards $20,000.00 in Scholarships, a new car and many other prizes on the National Level. Contestants from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico compete in the Miss National Teen ager Pageant.

Each state contestant will participate in the Volunteer Community Service Program of the Miss National Teen ager Pageant. Contestants are judged on schorship, leadership, poise, personality, and appearance. There is no swimsuit or talent competition.

Each contestant will recite a 100 word speech on the subject, "What's Right About America".

Miss Judith Martin

Homemakers plan meeting

The Appomattox Homemakers Club will hold the November meeting on Nov. 18 at 11 a.m. at Maude's Restaurant for a luncheon meeting.

All members are urged to be present and bring a gift of food for a needy person.

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